

Message Text

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47/44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 T-03 OMB-01 EB-11

RSR-01 /151 W

----- 112757

O R 212235 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3181

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL FRANCE

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF

DIRNSA FT GG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

CDRUSMACV

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

DEPCDR 7/13 AF

CDR 7 TH RRFS RAMASUN THAI

CDR 7 ACCS KORAT

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

DODSPECREP NKP

CHSPECATS BKK

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56 SOW NKP
CDR JCRC NKP
432 TRW UDORN
ARMA/ AIRA/ VTN LAOS
ARMA/ AIRA/ SVK LAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2102

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T -- P A R A G R A P H 1. C)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER AND J3 P8;
7/13 AF, 432 TRW AND 56 SOW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR J2
AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - MARCH 21

REF: VIENTIANE 2048

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - FIGHTING MARKEDLY DECLINED
DURING PERIOD 19-20 MARCH. ONLY MAJOR GROUND INCIDENT
WAS LARGE VOLUME OF FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRE ON 19 MARCH
SOUTH OF THAKHEK, BUT NOT IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT.
REPORTED ARTILLERY EXPENDITURE ON PREVIOUS DAY WAS ZERO.
RLAF FLEW ONLY 12 T-28 SORTIES. PL AND FRIENDLY FORCES
ARE FRATERNIZING IN FAR NORTHWEST VICINITY MUONG MEUNG.
SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK, PL LETTER THREATENED RETALIATION
FOR ALLEGED NIBBLING AT " LIBERATED " ZONE, BUT OFFERED TO
MEET AND DISCUSS THE SITUATION. POLITICAL - RLG TABLES
DRAFT PROTOCOLS IN MEETINGS OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY RESEARCH
GROUPS. SOVIET AN-2 DID NOT RETURN FROM SAM NEUA, MARCH
21. THAI DEPUTY FORMIN CHARTCHAI CONSULTS WITH RLG
OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND ACTIVITY REPORTED. RLAF
FLEW FOUR T-28 SORTIES ON 20 MARCH, ALL AGAINST SUSPECTED
FIRING POSITIONS INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS SHELLINGS EAST OF
LUANG PRABANG (REFTEL). IN HOUA KHONG PROVINCE IN FAR
NORTHWEST, SMALL GROUPS OF FRIENDLY TROOPS HAVE ACCEPTED
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INVITATION OF ENEMY AT MUONG MUENG (PC 5292) TO VISIT,

UNARMED AND DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.

B. MR II: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT LOW LEVEL.

RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES. ON 20 MARCH, TWO MINOR INCIDENTS OCCURED: ONE, 19 KMS NORTHWEST OF MUONG SOU WHERE FRIENDLY ELEMENT WAS ATTACKED (NO CASUALTIES); THE OTHER, IN BOUAM LONG AREA NORTH OF PDJ, WHERE ON CIVILIAN WAS KILLED IN ENEMY AMBUSH.

C. MR III: ACTION DECREASED MARKEDLY. ONLY MAJOR INCIDENT WAS FRIEND' S FIRING 135 ARTILLERY ROUNDS, NOT IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT, INTO VILLAGE/ BRIDGE AREA (VE 815114) APPROX 13 KM SOUTH OF THAKHEK DURING AFTERNOON 19 MARCH (RESULTS UNKNOWN). ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE THREE MINOR INCIDENTS, ALL CLASHES : 35 KM NORTHWEST OF THAKHEK ON 19 MARCH (NO CASUALTIES), 27 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK ON 20 ARCH (ONE FRIENDLY WIA), 23 KM EAST OF KENGKOK ON 20 MARCH (THREE FRIENDLY KIA). RLAF FLEW EIGHT T-28 SORTIES ON 20 MARCH, FIVE IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT VICINITY THAKHEK AND KENGKOK AND THREE AGAINST ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS NEAR SCENE OF RECENT FIGHTING NORTH OF DONG HENE. THERE WERE ALSO TWO AC-47 GUNSHIP SORTIES NORTHWEST OF THAKHEK AND EAST OF KENGKOK IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT. FRIENDLY FORCES IN VILLAGE SOME 30 KM SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK RECEIVED LETTER FROM PATHET LAO THAT ALLEGED RLG INTRUDED INTO " LIBERATED" AREA, THREATENED RETALIATION, AND ASKED FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

D. MR IV: ONLY GROUND ACTIONS REPORTED IN REGION WERE THREE SCATTERED MINOR CLASHES ON 19 MARCH JUST SOUTHWEST OF PAKSONG (ONE FIRENDLY WIA), APPROX 30 KM SOUTH OF PAKSE (NO CASUALTIES). ONLY RLAF ACTIVITY WAS ONE AC-47 SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF FOREGOING ACTION SOUTH OF PAKSE DURING NIGHT 19-20 MARCH.

E. MR V: THERE WERE TWO MINOR INCIDENTS, BOTH ON 20 MARCH. SMALL ELEMENT CLASHED APPROX 45 KM WEST OF VANG VIENG (NO CASUALTIES). RESUPPLY HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY SMALL- ARMS FIRE WHILE OPERATING WITH UNITS APPROX 45 KM NORTH OF PAKSANE (NO CASUALTIES). RLAF FLEW NO SORTIES.

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F. COUNT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: RLG DEFMIN ANNOUNCED ONE ADDITIONAL ENEMY VIOLATION, BRINGING TOTAL TO 267 AS OF MORNING 18 MARCH. OUR COUNT OF GROUND ACTIONS INITITATED BY BOTH SIDES SHOWS 61 MAJOR AND 352 MINOR

INCIDENTS THROUGH 17 MARCH.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. MILITARY/ POLITICAL RESEARCH GROUPS MEET: RLG HELD INITIATIVE IN INTERNAL TALKS BY TABLING ITS DRAFT MILITARY AND POLITICAL PROTOCOLS IN MEETINGS OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL RESEARCH GROUPS, MARCH 21. GROUPS REPORTEDLY HELD GENERAL, BUT INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON PROTOCOLS. LPF UNDERTOOK PRESENT ITS OWN DRAFT MILITARY PROTOCOL AT NEXT MEETING, DEFERRED TO MARCH 24 BECAUSE OF ARMED FORCES DAY HOLIDAY MARCH 23. RLG SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ITS POLITICAL PROTOCOL DID NOT NEED DISCUSS COALITION GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IN PREVIOUS MEETING AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED ON " ALL BUT A FEW MINOR DETAILS."

B. AN-2 STILL AT SAM NEUA: SOVIET ANTONOV-2 DID NOT RETURN AS SCHEDULED FROM SAM NEUA TODAY; AND, ACCORDING AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, IT IS NOW EXPECTED BACK IN VIENTIANE EITHER MARCH 22 OR 23.

C. VISIT THAI DEPUTY FORNMIN CHARTCHAI: THAI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARTCHAI CHUNAVAN ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE MARCH 20 FOR TWO- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, CHARTCHAI IN HIS MEETINGS WITH RANKING RLG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIMIN, WILL DISCUSS THREAT OF COMMUNIST INVASION ACROSS THAI/ LAO BORDER, AS WELL AS POST- WAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF LAOS.
GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: CIA
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STATE INFO BANGKOK
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PARIS

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